

Message Text

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SUBJ: DIARIO DE NOTICIAS JOURNALISTS PROTEST PARTISAN NEWS CONTROL

SUMMARY: THIRTY JOURNALISTS ON EDITORIAL STAFF OF COMMUNIST-DOMINATED MORNING DAILY DIARIO DE NOTICIAS (DN) PROTESTED AGAINST DN'S IDEOLOGICAL ORIENTATION IN COMMUNIQUE SENT TO DN'S ADMINISTRATION AND AT AUG 16 PRESS CONFERENCE. JOURNALISTS' UNION SUPPORTED POSITION OF 30 DN JOURNALISTS AGAINST PAPER'S CONTROLLING FACTION IDENTIFIED BY UNION AS COMMUNIST. END SUMMARY.

1. THIRTY JOURNALISTS ON EDITORIAL STAFF OF COMMUNIST-DOMINATED MORNING DAILY DIARIO DE NOTICIAS (DN) PROTESTED AGAINST DN'S IDEOLOGICAL ORIENTATION AND "INCREASINGLY TENDENTIOUS TREATMENT OF POLITICAL NEWS" IN A COMMUNIQUE SENT AUG 15 TO DN'S ADMINISTRATION AND AT AUG 16 PRESS CONFERENCE. IN THEIR COMMUNIQUE AND PRESS CONFERENCE, JOURNALISTS ACCUSED DN ADMINISTRATORS AND EDITORS OF NOT OBSERVING PAPER'S EDITORIAL STATUTE SETTING FORTH ITS IDEOLOGICAL INDEPENDENCE AND OBJECTIVITY. JOURNALISTS MENTIONED DN'S SILENCE ON ISSUE OF CENSORSHIP IMPLICIT IN JESUINO DOCUMENT AND SAID THAT SITUATION HAS LED MANY OUTSTANDING DN JOURNALISTS TO QUIT.

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2. JOURNALISTS'S UNION ISSUED STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR DN'S PROTESTING STAFF IN UNION'S AUG 17 COMMUNIQUE. STATEMENT DESCRIBES JOURNALISTS' ACTION AS CORRECT POSITION TO ASSUME IN STRUGGLE AGAINST CONTROL AND CENSORSHIP EXERCISED BY THE SOCIAL-FASCIST (COMMUNIST) PARTY OVER THE PAPER'S CONTENTS. UNION STATEMENT BLAMES LINK BETWEEN 5TH DIVISION AND MINISTRY OF MASS COMMUNICATION FOR INTERNAL CENSORSHIP AT DN AND CALLS FOR DISMISSAL OF MINISTER JESUINO AND STAFF.

3. IN RESPONSE TO PROTEST, DN PUBLISHED FRONT PAGE AUG 15 NOTICE TO READERS CALLING JOURNALISTS' COMMUNIQUE COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY AND STATING THAT IT WAS SIGNED BY SMALL GROUP OF PROVOCATEURS WHO HAD INFILTRATED DN. WEEKLY INDEPENDENT LIBERAL EXPRESSO DESCRIBED THE ATTITUDE OF DN'S PRESIDENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL COL. MARCELINO MARQUES TOWARD DN'S NEW INTERNAL DISPUTE AS "COLD."

4. COMMENT: DN'S INTERNAL DISPUTE OVER DIRECTION AND QUALITY OF NEWS CONTENT IS ANOTHER SIGN OF INCREASING WILLINGNESS TO CHALLENGE PCP INFLUENCE IN IMPORTANT SECTOR OF PORTUGUESE SOCIETY.

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